

NBC MEET THE PRESS
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KALB: Did, you mentioned Afghanistan. There's a story in today's Washington Post that the United States is giving approximately \$250 million in covert assistance to the rebels in Afghanistan. Is that correct sir? SHULTZ: Well, I have nothing to say any, in any way about covert assistance. We do sympathize very much with the freedom fighters in Afghanistan, and we provide humanitarian aid, and we, we're very much in support of what kind of resistance they're putting up. The point is, there is a potential solution to Afghanistan, and it is that the Soviet Union withdraw its forces, let a government get established there that represents the people of Afghanistan, and that provisions be made so that the large number of refugees come back without prejudice to their condition. And these are things that we have pointed out, and then the U.N. negotiations have been brought up very strongly.

KALB: Isn't the United States providing more than just humanitarian assistance, as you put it, sir? SHULTZ: Well, as you know, I will not comment on questions involving covert assistance to anything.

MUDD: What about aid to Nicaragua? It's now published that, that Honduras and El Salvador have increased their aid to the Nicaraguan contras, and Congressman Addabbo has asked the State Department for clarification as to whether El Salvador and Honduras is truly diverting the aid they get from us and then sending it all to Nicaragua. The State Department says well, we can't comment on that. Would you, sir, comment? SHULTZ: Well, as far as we're concerned the, under the appropriations process in the Congress, we are sending no money into Nicaragua, and as far as we're able to tell, and we do trace through where our aid goes when we give it to some country, trace it through to see that it's used for the purposes it was given for, and as far as we're knowledgeable that is the case. Now, in the case of an individual country, it's a sovereign country, and if they have things they want to do with their own funds, that's up to them. But in our case, according to our law, we're providing the, we're providing funds to Honduras, to Honduras, to El Salvador, and they're using it for the purpose it was given for.

MUDD: You've left the door open a little, haven't you, on that question?
SHULTZ: I've only left the door open to the extent of recognizing that sovereign countries are sovereign countries, and I don't know everything that everybody does.

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